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Intelligence Requirements in Respect to Germany

18 October 1943

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Intelligence Requirements in Respect to Germany

The following report, in two sections, covers in detail inadequacies in the intelligence materials on Germany at present supplied to the psychological warfare and economic research staffs of the Europe-Africa Division, with suggestions for additional materials on this subject which would be of use to the Division.

I. The material which the research staff in psychological warfare has received on Germany has been mainly of four general types:

a. Current newspapers and periodicals
b. Handbooks and other books
c. Confidential and secret documents from other than OSS sources
d. Confidential and secret documents from SI

The coverage of newspapers is fairly adequate although for MO purposes a great many local newspapers would be highly useful and these are at present not available. It should be possible for a staff in England or Stockholm to read German local newspapers and digest the material useful for OSS operational branches, but this at present is not being done.

In the field of periodicals certain journals are received, like the Deutsche Volkswirtschaft and occasionally a few copies of periodicals on legal and administrative subjects, i. e., Deutsche Justiz and Die Deutsche Polizei. These and the other important legal and administrative periodicals should be received regularly and as quickly as possible after publication in order to keep up on developments for Civil Affairs. In addition, the entire body of periodical literature on health and medical conditions is inadequately covered. This material should be of great use for MO.

In the field of books, some publications are obtained by way of the Interdepartmental Committee, but there are a large number of recent volumes which are badly needed. These volumes cover the areas of administration and law and also the German occupation of the conquered and allied countries, and are fundamental handbooks for Civil Affairs work and contain much information of importance to MO. A list of these can be supplied.

The confidential and secret documents which are received, whether from outside agencies or from SI, are entirely inadequate for our needs. The greatest single deficiency in our material is in the type that provides details useful for MO. These are not supplied except in small quantity by any agency and there seems to be no organization available for collecting this information. The SI documents are much too vague and general for our use for MO. Far more material is needed on specific acts of anti-Nazi operations

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or of potential anti-Nazi operations within Germany. These details should be specific as to time and place and as to the occupation, sex and age of the persons involved.

The single most important source of information for psychological warfare against Germany is that of interviews with prisoners of war. These interviews supply us with more direct evidence concerning the morale of the army and of the civilian population than any other type of material. Next in importance would be the intercepts, but these again cannot compare with the prisoner of war interviews in richness of insight into the conditions in Germany. It is therefore imperative for us to obtain as much material from prisoner of war interviews as is available. Unfortunately the reports of this nature which are received are extremely few in number and tend toward vagueness as to content. It would enormously assist our work if OSS personnel were to receive permission to interview prisoners or, at the very least, to obtain the raw material of the interviews before it is processed into formal report by persons unacquainted with our needs. At the end of this section there is to be found a sample list of questions which we should like to submit to prisoners of war and a list of categories according to which we should like to have the interviews arranged. These questions are necessarily incomplete but they offer a guide as to our interests.

The following topics are ones about which at the present time we have quite inadequate information useful for our work. It should be recalled once more that the value of the information, assuming that it is accurate, depends upon the richness of precise detail which can be used for operational purposes. The list of topics is as follows:

All information concerning politics and political factions within the Nazi Party, relations between personalities both civil and military, the political significance of administrative changes, what has happened to the former German leaders in the political and non-political fields and where are these leaders at present;

All information on Nazi organizations, especially the SS, the organization Todt, the Technische Nothilfe, the NSKK, the NSV:

All information concerning anti-Nazi or anti-war actions, such as strikes, food riots, sabotage, rumors, executions;

All information concerning the evacuees from bombed areas, where are they sent, what reception is given them, how is the evacuation organized, how efficient is it, what intermixture of social groups results, how does the administration function in a bombed area;

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What is the reaction of the peasantry to the Nazi regime, to the war, to the Food Estate, to the urban population demanding food, how is food rationing received in the country districts;

What is the extent to which bureaucrats and teachers of the older generation are used in office, what is their reaction to Nazism, to the war;

What is the situation in the Polish Corridor with respect to the following:

1. the elimination of Poles
2. the settlement of Germans
3. the relations between the native Poles and the Germans
4. the structure of administrative control
5. the distribution of ownership of property
6. the cultural facilities for each nationality, etc.

Information showing any trend toward inflation in the way of hoarding, decline in savings, fear of devaluated currency, fear of governmental confiscation of savings, flight into real goods;

Information concerning the merchant marine, the use of foreigners in it, the contacts of the merchant marine with labor groups in Germany, the attitude toward Nazism and toward the war, the possibility of using the marine for obtaining information or for sending agents into Germany;

Operational intelligence concerning where, by whom and when a secret printing press may be set up or a clandestine radio station or other instruments of propaganda;

The reaction of women to the Nazi regime, regimentation, the war, air raids, rationing, etc., any evidence of anti-Nazi demonstration on the part of the women;

Evidence of political thinking and of social plans about the future of Germany, any signs of federalist feeling;

Information concerning the possibility of establishing an underground intelligence service in Austria;

Evidence concerning the reliability or unreliability for PW operations of individuals in Germany;

Any material on interviews with German prisoners of war in Russia;

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Information concerning the attitude of professional persons, big business men and army officers toward the Nazi regime and toward the war;

Material concerning the international connections of German big business which could be used in PW.

On the Church the following topics are inadequately covered by our information:

1. Details on the extent to which religious services have been limited;

2. Details on the extent to which party functions interfers with the functions of the Church (Particularly youth);

3. Any evidence with respect to persistence of Catholic labor organizations (in both Germany proper and Austria); is any former leading personnel left;

4. Any evidence with respect to undercover operations of Catholic printing presses;

5. Details with respect to the status of religious instruction in the schools;

6. Details on the strength of Catholicism as a part of a possible Bavarian separatism;

7. All possible details on the political attitude toward Nazism and toward the continuation of the war of the Catholic clergy, especially the parish priests;

8. Any evidence for cooperation between parish priests and oppositional elements, e.g. in Wurttemberg;

9. Any details on confiscation of Church property; what has been done with the property;

10. Any evidence of support by Catholic and Protestant clergy of Jews in hiding;

11. What are the ideas of Catholic and Protestant clergy with respect to the government of Germany after the Nazi collapse, with respect to the relations of Church and State in the future

12. Any evidence for possible cooperation betwe Allies and Christian clergy;

13. Has strength of Catholic and Protestant Churches increased or decreased since 1939;

14. All details on persecutions, location of victims and attitude of local population toward Nazi regime as result of the persecutions;

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15. What has happened to Church welfare organizations and other Church lay groups;

16. Details on foreign contacts of German clergy or of German lay men important in Church affairs.

Material desired on Austria is as follows:

1. Any and all material on the Catholic Church in former Austria, including attitude of clergy toward Nazi confiscation of Church (especially monastic property) and appropriation of ecclesiastical property; what is the Church program for Austrian future;

2. What has happened to the leaders of the Christian Socialist Party;

3. All evidence on persistence of Austrian underground of 1934-1938, especially persistence of Revolutionary Socialists and Communists and old trade union organizations;

4. How many (details) Reich Germans in important offices in Austria; how many Austrians in Reich in important positions; what positions;

5. What are the attitudes of the Austrian peasants, workers, and middle classes toward a future independent Austria; membership in a larger confederation; possibility of a Hapsburg restoration; union with Germany;

6. Details of the frictions between Austrian and German evacuees;

7. Any details on feeling on part of Austrian business classes that they have been exploited at the expense of the Reich;

8. Details on strength of police in Austrian country side; what is attitude of police toward Nazism, toward Germany; can the police be won for HO work;

9. All possible details on frictions between Germany and Austria;

10. All possible details on cooperation between foreign workers and Austrian laborers;

11. All details on extent to which Austria has actually been Nazified;

12. All details on resistance within Austrian factories, especially

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APPENDIX

In questioning prisoners of war, the following points might be covered:

I. Opposition to the Nazi Regime:

(1) what acts of sabotage
(2) what other acts of resistance
(3) what underground activities are known

Knowledge of personalities, age, occupation, former political affiliation, localities, and dates are most desirable.

II. Conflicts within the Regime:

(1) what relation between party and army
(2) party and industrialists
(3) SS and army importance
(4) SS and SA (SS for civilian morale)
(5) what relation between party and church
    (a) Protestant
    (b) Catholic

(6) what attitude of churches and what their importance
(7) what relation between army and civilians

These topics are of equal importance regard to cooperation and solidarity between the above-mentioned groups.

III. Effect of War on Civilian Population:

(1) what reaction to military reverses at the fronts
(2) to the air war over Germany
    (a) what effect on bombed victims themselves
    (b) what effect of evacuees on non-bombed areas and people (with emphasis on social and regional differences)
    (c) what reaction of soldiers to civilian bombing

IV. Attitudes toward Nazi Party and Propaganda:

(1) what reasons for being pro and anti-Nazi
(2) what reactions for different social classes and regions (Labor, peasantry, white collar, Bavaria, Austria, etc.) and different age groups
(3) what relations of civilians toward party leadership
    (a) higher leaders (Hitler, Göring, etc.)
    (b) lower officials (Block and Zellenleiter)
(4) what propaganda is believed
(5) why is it believed
(6) how long is it believed in captivity

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Opinion poll among a single social or regional group would be desirable.

V. Army Morale:

(1) what relation between officers and enlisted men
(2) what knowledge of other fronts
(3) what reaction to conditions at home
(4) what confidence in equipment and leadership
(5) what is extent of defeatism
(6) what reasons for surrender
(7) what are fighting qualities of party men as compared with non-party men
(8) what is soldiers' own evaluation of Germany's strength and weakness (military, economic, etc.)

VI. Attitudes toward United Nations:

(1) what reaction to western powers (England, U.S., especially with regard to air war)
(2) to Russia (especially with regard to military reverses and Free Germany Committee)

VII. Attitudes toward Foreigners:

(1) what attitude toward foreign workers and prisoners in Germany
(2) what evidence for contact and fraternization between German workers and foreign workers
(3) what reaction to subject peoples in the army

VIII. Response to United Nations PW:

(1) what judgment on our leaflets (slogans)
(2) broadcasts (programs)

Reactions to specific programs are desirable.

IV. Ideas on Post-War Germany:

(1) what kind of "peace" desirable
(2) what reaction to "unconditional surrender"
(3) what reaction to "Free Germany Committee"
(4) what reaction to old parties under Republic
(5) what attitudes toward freedom of enterprize, trade, press assembly, religion, etc.
(6) what attitude toward anti-Semitism
(7) what general political orientation toward
    (a) Communism
    (b) Democracy
    (c) military dictatorship, etc.
(8) what specific political groups active (see "underground" above).

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II. The general categories of intelligence in which the staff for economic research is interested are four: manpower, aircraft, agriculture and standards of living, and industrial resources. While all data bearing on these fields are naturally wanted, the most serious gaps, to fill which additional intelligence is seriously needed, are indicated below by the above categories.

a. Manpower. Data on the organization of the armed forces, with special reference to the physical standards for service, the number and characteristics of those called up, the length of their training.

Statistics on employment by occupation, broken down as fine as possible, and especially data on labor priorities and shifts in the labor force from industry to industry.

Indications of the factors affecting the efficiency of the labor force, including hours and conditions of work, dilution by women, foreign workers, prisoners of war, the aged and unfit.

b. Aircraft. Any information on the name, location layout of plant, and actual nature of activity of German aircraft factories. Data should indicate what models factory is making, whether assembling or making components, what the relation of the plant is to other component or assembly plants in the same complex, number of workers employed, any index of amount of production, as well as recent expansion of individual plants, shifts in the nature of their production or their relations with other plants.

Data on the following points are especially wanted:

What plants are contributing components to the Messerschmidt plant at Regensberg?

Is Regensberg Obertraubling manufacturing components, and are there any other components plants near Regensberg?

What is being manufactured at Kematen, and is it related to the Regensberg complex?

What evidence is there of the movement of the Focke-Wulff plant at Bremen to the East, especially in the Neighborhood of Marienberg?

What is the nature of the operations at Kottbus, Posen, Krzesinki, and Allenstein?

What is the relation of the plant at Bad Waslau to the Weiner-Neustadter complex?

What is the nature of the operation at the Ostmark Flugmotorenwerk at Weiner Neudorf, and what is its relation to the plant at Graz and to the Steyerwerk at Maribor?

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c. Agriculture and Standards of Living. In general data are wanted on the production, consumption, quality and legal restrictions of food, clothing, and housing.

Statistics on fruit, vegetables, and beer are especially wanted, including imports and exports and amount of canning. Also any information on production and distribution of synthetic vitamins, amount of Vitamin A in oleomargarine, and any indication of the vitamin content of the urban and rural dietary.

The prevalence of communal restaurants, factory kitchens and canteens should also be noted, especially who is served at such places and the nature of the meals, as well as whether coupons are surrendered for such meals.

Conformation is wanted of reports of the introduction of a differential bread ration for various regions of Germany, and of a difference in the proportions of wheat to rye.

A general view of the clothing situation would be very usefull. Do people appear to be sufficiently warmly clothed? Are shabby and noticeably patched clothes apparent? Also specific statistics on rayon and staple fiber production, bomb damage to fiber production facilities, and an indication of how soon damage will be repaired and output resumed. Figures on imports and exports of textile fibers are also wanted, and on production of wood in 1942.

More information is needed on the production of prefabricated housing, the use of mobile housing (trailers and portable units) for bombed-out families, the extent to which damaged housing is being repaired, and the size and nature of post-raid and precautionary evacuation of the population.

On leather, the annual slaughterings of various types of animals, their average weights, the amount and nature of hides processed, and the amounts of various types of leather and leather-substitute goods manufactured are all needed. The durability of substitutes (Buna S, Polyvinylchloride, and other plastics) and the extent of their use, and the apparent condition of military and civilian footwear should be noted. Also any intelligence on new methods of tanning.

A copy of the 1942 or 1943 Statistiches Jahrbuch would be of the greatest value.

d. Industrial Resources. The urgent intelligence requirements for this field differ with the several commodities under study. The nature of the data needed is consequently indicated below by the individual commodities.

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Iron and steel: Evidence of the removal of steel and engineering plants from west to east; rate of output of the Nikpol manganese mines; receipts of nickel from the Petsamo mines; output of tungsten carbide at Essen.

Cement: total actual production, 1943; evidence of plants operating far below capacity or shutting down; removal of plants to the east; military and civilian requirements for cement and data on stocks.

Mercury: consumption by uses.

Aluminum: estimates of production; indications of new plants.

Locomotives: number of locomotives ordinarily in Berlin-Templedorf repair shop; number damaged in air raids of August and September.

Coal and coke: what decline in production in the Ruhr as a result of air-raids; number of shifts working in eastern and western German mines; size of coal stock-pile; indication of changes in the consumption of coal and electric power in industry between 1942 and 1943.

Petroleum: number of rigs and rate of production of oilfields; rate and quality of output of refineries and synthetic oil plants; storage facilities for all petroleum products; requirements for petroleum products, civilian and military, broken down by kind of product and nature of use.

Non-ferrous metals: production of mine at Mansfield; total copper production in Germany; copper requirements.

Antimony: any intelligence on production, consumption, or stocks.

Rubber: production of aircraft tires at Hannover; any indications of aircraft-tire production elsewhere; confirmation of existence of new synthetic plant at Ludwigshafen; any other data on synthetic production; degree to which production of aircraft tires wholly of synthetic (no natural rubber) has been successful.

Bomb damage: names, nature of product, and size of production of any plants moved out of Hamburg after air raids; new locations of these plants; reports of appraisers responsible for evaluating compensation for air-raid damage; particularly any indication of degree of damage to plants at Schweinfurt and Huls.

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The following need is of the highest priority, and should take precedence over any single item of the general categories listed above:

The German Reichsbahn grants special railway rates for certain raw materials and semi-finished and finished goods, especially those of an urgent character. These rates do not become official until published in the "TARIF UND VERKEHRSANZEIGER", the official gazette of the Reichsbahn. The data are usually given something like this: As of this date rate x will apply to commodity y from station a to station b. Rates which become obsolete are also so announced. There is reason to believe that the Germans still continue to announce these special rates in this manner, as before the war.

The value of this information need hardly be labored. What would be required here for the full use of these data are: 1) a file of the Tarif und Verkehrsanzeiger for the last three years, 2) a copy of the official compilation of all special rates as of 1 November 1941, entitled "Verzeichnis der Ausnaametarife".

SI has been asked to procure these publications, but apparently has not yet been successful in obtaining them, although the matter has been in their hands for about six months. Other channels have also been tried, but without results. It seems fairly certain to us that these documents can be secured with reasonable ease inside Germany. So far as is known a file is also available in the library of the Internationale Verkehrsant in Berne, as well as in some other neutral countries. The documents would be of the greatest use not only to the OSS, but also to other government agencies.